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(54) Title: **METHYLATED GENE BIOMARKERS FOR DETECTING CANCER**

(57) Abstract: The present invention includes methods diagnosing of cancer by analysis of a patient sample, particularly for the presence of a methylated SPARC nucleic acid molecule, and particularly for the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. The invention also includes therapeutic methods for treating cancers by administering to cancers patients therapeutically effective amounts of demethylating agents.